

Robertsonidra praecipua Hayward & Ryland, 1995
Plate 58D-F

Rhamphostomella argentea: Harmer, 1957 (part): 1102.

Robertsonidra praecipua Hayward & Ryland, 1995a: 557, fig. 10C,D.

Robertsonidra harmeri Liu, Yin & Ma, 2001: 646, pl. 60, figs 5-7.

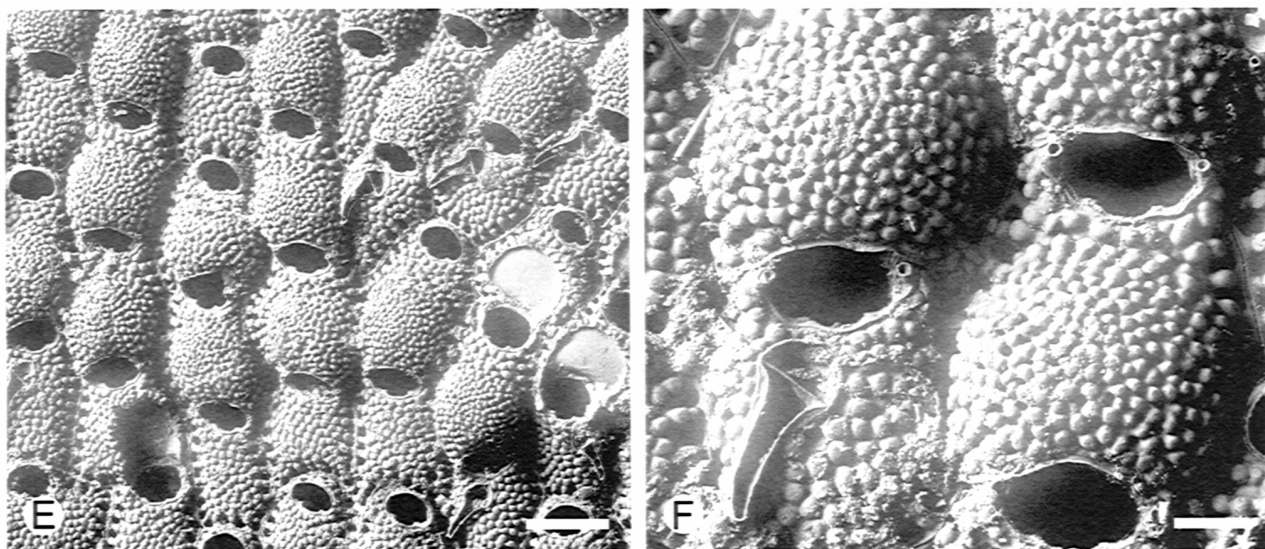
Material examined SBMNH 365731-734, **501-87**; SBMNH 365735, **409-84**; SBMNH 365736-738, **407-84**; NHM 1975.7.24.28, "Siboga" Station 439A, Sailus Ketjil, Paternoster Islands; NHM 1975.7.28.8, Station 18.B, Hurghada/Ghardaqa, Red Sea.

Description Autozooids small, oval to hexagonal, convex, with distinct sutures (ca 0.45 x 0.30 mm). Primary orifice oval, wider than long (ca 0.16 x 0.12 mm), proximal edge straight, with short, U-shaped sinus flanked by sharply pointed condyles; two thin spines present, bases retained in ovicellate zooids; no umbo present. Avicularia large, present on minority of zooids, rostrum elongate triangular, often curving slightly medially, directed proximolaterally. Ovicell spherical, as wide as long.

Remarks *Robertsonidra praecipua* is characterised by its oval orifice, straight proximal edge with pointed condyles, and its large, slightly curving, frontal avicularia.

Robertsonidra praecipua is most similar to *R. sutila*, which also has large, curving avicularia; however those in *R. sutila* have more curvature, almost 90° in some cases. These species also differ in the shape of their orifices, that of *R. praecipua* is more oval than the round orifice of *R. sutila*.

Distribution Originally described using a single colony from Heron Island at the southern end of the Great Barrier Reef, *Robertsonidra praecipua* was recorded from Gibson Island, Hamilton Passage, Choiseul and Yandina, Mbanika Island, Russell Islands in the Solomon Islands. Other material here attributed to this species, from the South China Sea, Malaysia and the Red Sea shows that this rare species has an Indo-Pacific distribution. This is only the third record of this species.



Robertsonidra praecipua Hayward & Ryland, 1995. Tilbrook, 2006, p.263, pl.58D-F

